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 CLASSIFICATION SECURITY INFORMATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 10 Jan 52

SUBJECT 1. Pursuit Brigade in Bilisht
 2. Information on 8 Infantry Division
 3. Border Guard Units
 4. Construction of Fortifications

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (BELOW)

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DATE OF INFO.

REFERENCE TO RT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. On 25 March 1951, a pursuit company, probably belonging to 104 Pursuit Brigade, arrived in Bilisht by truck from Korce. On 4 April 1951, the company was still in Bilisht.

2. 8 Infantry Division (sic - headquarters?), 9 and 14 Infantry Regiments, and 7 Regiment of Mountain Artillery, are still in Korce.

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3. One battalion, probably belonging to 9 Infantry Regiment, is in Bilisht to guard the storehouses and bridges.

4. One battalion, probably of 9 Infantry Regiment, remains in Erseke. [] it is probably the battalion that moved from Korce to Erseke on 8 February 1951 after five Communists were killed by guerrillas.

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5. 26 Infantry Regiment is in the vicinity of Pogradec.¹

6. Two anti-aircraft guns, belonging to 8 Infantry Division and served by 20 men, were in position on Borje heights (N. 085-545) during the second ten days of March 1951. [] they are probably 77 mm. Czechoslovakian guns intended for anti-aircraft fire against hostile planes which drop handbills.

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7. 8 Infantry Division has one battery of 77 mm. Czechoslovakian anti-aircraft artillery. It also has one battery of 20 mm. German anti-aircraft artillery.²

8. At the end of March 1951, a lieutenant colonel arrived in Korce to become the commander of the Border Guard units from Leskovik to Pogradec. [] this signifies that Border Guard commands are being created that are directly subordinate to the Ministry of National Defense, instead of the Ministry of Interior.³

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9. At the beginning of March 1951, construction of fortification works commenced in the vicinity of Vithkuq, Bellovode and Llovadari (M. 95-53). [] the above region is a second line of defense in case of attack []

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1. Comment: This regiment was reported in the same vicinity during the entire winter.

2. Comment: this information has not been reported before.

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3. Comment:
there is in the Ministry of Interior a Directorate of the Border Guard with inspectorates as follows:

- a. Commanding officer (director) of the Border Guard: Col. Como Mako
- b. Chief of Staff: Lt. Col. Teme Sheiko
- c. Inspector of the Southeast Section: Lt. Col. Mero Sotir
- d. Inspector of the North Sector: Lt. Col. Filko Sotir
- e. Inspector of the West Sector: Lt. Col. Bekir Staria

it consequently is to be expected that other local commands would be established for better command of the border areas of Albania.

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4. Comment: This line of defense confirms other information



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